

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-15 PA-02 H-02 ISO-00
SSM-05 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 PCH-02 SAA-01 SES-02
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RUNDELAND:LLC
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARN - MR. HOWELL
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----011763 290231Z /62

O 282311Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
SECDEF WASHDC 0000
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA
NSC WASHDC 0000
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
POUCH ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 28

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 28. SPOKES-
MAN WAS KENNETH BROWN.

Q. ANY COMMENT ON THE ISRAELI VOTE IN THE KNESSET LAST
NIGHT?

A. WE DO HAVE A REACTION THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY,
BUT I WILL REPEAT THAT FOR YOU IF YOU WISH. THE UNITED
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STATES WELCOMES THE VOTE OF THE ISRAELI KNESSET APPROVING
THE CAMP DAVID FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF ISRAEL HAVE NOW GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT TO THE STATESMAN-
SHIP OF THEIR PRIME MINISTER AT THE SUMMIT. IN THIS
AFFIRMATION, ISRAEL HAS TAKEN ANOTHER MOMENTUS AND -
DECISIVE STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING ITS LONG-SOUGHT GOAL OF PEACE
WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE
TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PARTIES IN THE PERIOD AHEAD AS

THEY BEGIN NEGOTIATING TO MAKE A REALITY OF THE DREAM OF
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. YOU WERE ASKED YESTERDAY ABOUT WHAT THE NEXT STEPS IN
THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE, AND THE STATEMENT SAID THE NEXT
STEPS WOULD DEPEND UPON THE OUTCOME OF THE KNESSET VOTE.
CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN SAYING THAT YOU WILL JUST
CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PARTIES? WHAT HAPPENS
NEXT?

A. NOW THAT THE KNESSET DEBATE IS OVER, WE ARE
CONTINUING OUR INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPT AND
ISRAEL TO PIN DOWN EXACTLY HOW TO PROCEED, AND AGAIN, I'M

NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE SPECIFICS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT WITH THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES?

A. WE, AS YOU KNOW, ARE DISCUSSING WITH CERTAIN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES THE ACCORDS, AND OF COURSE, ARE STILL HOPING FOR EVENTUAL SUPPORT.

Q. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT OUT THERE? THERE WAS SOME TALK ABOUT MORE CONCRETE QUESTION COMING IN.

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS.

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Q. SPECIFICALLY, KING HUSSEIN SAID THAT HE HAS ASKED QUESTIONS OF HIS FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES. AMONG HIS FRIENDS, ONE COULD ASSUME THERE IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HAVE YOU RECEIVED QUESTIONS FROM HIM?

A. YOU KNOW THAT AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WAS THERE, MET WITH THE KING, AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THEIR CONVERSATIONS.

Q. IS THAT THE CHANNEL, THEN? CAN ONE ASSUME THE QUESTIONS WERE ASKED OF ATHERTON THAT THE KING SAID HE WAS ASKING?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS HE'S REFERRING TO, BUT I'M CERTAIN THE KING EXPLORED RATHER FULLY HIS VIEW OF THE ACCORDS.

Q. IS IT THE AMERICAN STRATEGY THAT AT SOME POINT THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS WOULD HAVE TO BE REWRITTEN TO ACCOMMODATE THE QUESTIONS THAT THE KING ASKS?

A. I JUST HAVE NOTHING ON THAT. I CAN'T GET INTO IT.

Q. DO YOU REGARD THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AS A DOCUMENT SUBJECT TO BEING REWRITTEN TO BRING IN OTHER PEOPLE?

A. WE REGARD THE ACCORDS AS WHAT THEY ARE STATED TO BE, A FRAMEWORK, AND WE HOPE THAT IT WILL LEAD TO AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.

Q. COULD YOU TAKE WHETHER THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS ARE REGARDED AS FIXED, AND IF ANYBODY WANTS TO COME IN, THAT'S FINE, OR FLEXIBLE ENOUGH SO THAT THEY CAN BE CHANGED TO ACCOMMODATE OTHERS WHO WANT TO COME IN?

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A. I WILL TAKE A QUESTION ON THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH WE EXPECT OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE, OTHERS TO COME IN. I WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE FRAMEWORK AS OUTLINED, UNDER THE PROVISIONS THAT ARE IN THE ACCORDS, BUT LET ME GET SOMETHING ON THAT FROM THE EXPERTS.

Q. ON ANOTHER POINT, YOU TOOK THIS QUESTION I THINK AT THE END OF LAST WEEK, OR MAYBE IT WAS EARLY THIS WEEK, ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LETTERS THAT ARE STILL PENDING ON THE SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK AND THE TWO AIR FIELDS IN THE NEGEV. THE ANSWER THAT WAS PROVIDED AVOIDED, IN EFFECT, AN ANSWER, SO COULD WE TRY AGAIN ON WHETHER THE DELAY IS RELATED IN SOME DEGREE TO A DESIRE TO TIE ONE TO THE OTHER?

A. I HAVE NOTHING BEYOND WHAT WE SAID YESTERDAY.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US THAT THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN THE TWO?

A. I WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION AS WELL AND I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER THAN WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER WORD FROM THE ISRAELIS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT LETTER ON THE SETTLEMENTS?

A. NO, I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE SETTLEMENTS TODAY.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A TIME FRAME FOR WHEN THEY MIGHT REPLY?

A. I DO NOT.

Q. IN THE STATEMENT THAT MARSHALL SHULMAN MADE A FEW DAYS AGO ON SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS, HE INDICATED THAT THIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE SOVIET UNION TO BE TO BLAME FOR

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THE FACT THAT THE JOINT STATEMENT WAS NOT CARRIED FORWARD OR THE PROCESS THAT WAS SET IN MOTION IN THE JOINT STATEMENT WAS ABORTED. CAN YOU EXPLAIN HIS REASONING FOR THAT? HE DIDN'T REALLY GO INTO IT. AND I NOTED TODAY IN SAUNDERS' STATEMENT THAT HE STATES THAT THE UNITED STATES ALONE, AMONG THE WORLD'S NATIONS OF "BOTH ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS, HAD BEEN PREPARED TO WORK WITH..." WHICH

WOULD TEND TO INDICATE THAT WE DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT
ISRAEL TO BE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE SOVIET UNION ANYWAY.
COULD YOU JUST STRAIGHTEN OUT THAT SITUATION?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD ON THE SOVIET ROLE.

Q. CAN YOU GET AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ON WHAT MARSHALL
SHULMAN HAD IN MIND?

A. NO. I'VE ANTICIPATED YOU ON THAT AND I JUST DON'T
HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO SADAT'S SAYING THAT HE
BELIEVED THAT EGYPT COULD PLAY THE ROLE OF THE PARTICIPANT
ON BEHALF OF THE WEST BANK POPULATION, IF IT CAME TO
THAT?

A. BEYOND WHAT IS LAID OUT IN THE FRAMEWORK, I DON'T
HAVE IT.

Q. DO WE THINK HE COULD ACTUALLY PLAY THAT ROLE? DO WE
READ THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AS INDICATING THAT HE COULD
TAKE ON THAT ROLE IF NO ONE ELSE WAS WILLING TO PARTICI-
PATE?

A. WE READ THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT AS SAYING WHAT IT
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SAYS, THAT THE ROLES IT ATTRIBUTES TO THE VARIOUS
PARTICIPANTS WE THINK WILL WORK.

Q. MR. SAUNDERS WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH THE ARAB
AMBASSADORS IN THE U,N; TUESDAY AFTERNOON TO BRIEF THEM
ON THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS; WHY DID THE MEETING NOT TAKE
PLACE?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WOULD YOU KINDLY TAKE THE QUESTION?

A. YES, I'LL LOOK INTO THAT; I HAVE NOTHING AT ALL ON
THE MEETING, BUT I'LL CHECK IT, CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ALGIERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE247668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RUNDELAND:LLC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780397-0189
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978099/aaaaahff.tel
Line Count: 273
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1aafde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1507834
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 28 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 28.
TAGS: SOPN, PBOR, XF, US, IS
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1aafde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014